

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Request for Continued Examination

A request for continued examination (RCE) is enclosed in response to the final Office Action mailed on June 11, 2008.

Claim Status

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Makino (US 5,388,251). In response, applicant traverses the rejections and amends independent claims 1, 6 and 8 to clearly distinguish over Makino. In particular, claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended to clarify the feature of the present invention wherein a display screen can be switched between an option display having a plurality of options in a first hierarchy (i.e. FIG. 6, display D20) and:

- a function explanation display (i.e., FIG. 6, display D21) when explanation of the function of the tentative option is selected (i.e., via the HELP button);
- a plurality of options in a second hierarchy that are related to a tentative option determined as a determinate option (i.e. FIG. 6, display D23); and
- an operating explanation display (i.e., FIG. 7, display D24) when an operating explanation for guiding a next operation from the state of the option display is requested (i.e., via the HELP button).

In this manner, the present invention provides a hierarchical structure in which a user can easily and quickly switch between hierarchically-related option displays and can also view easily and quickly view function and operating explanations, even when the display is limited by a small screen (page 20, lines 17-27 and page 25, lines 21-27).

Makino, by contrast, merely discloses a device for forming a help message on a display when a help key is depressed. Makino fails to disclose or suggest switching an option display from a plurality of options in a first hierarchy to a plurality of options in a second hierarchy that is related to a tentative option determined as a determinate option. In this regard, in maintaining the previous rejection, the "Response to Arguments" at page 4 of the Action asserted that applicant's hierarchic display structure was not specifically recited in the claims. However, the hierarchic display structure is now specifically recited in the claims and is not disclosed or suggested by Makino.

Moreover, Makino fails to disclose or suggest that the option display can also be switched to two different displays of "handling information": a function explanation display for explaining the function of the tentative option and an operating explanation display for guiding a next operation from a state of the option display.

Accordingly, since Makino does not disclose each and every feature of claims 1, 6 and 8, it cannot anticipate those claims or claims 2-4 that depend from claim 1. The rejections of claims 1-4, 6 and 8 under 35 USC 102(b) should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Makino and, alternatively, as obvious over Hastings (US 5,885,012). In response, applicant traverses the rejections.

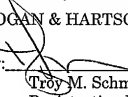
Claims 5 and 7 depend, respectively, from claims 1 and 6, and therefore distinguish over Makino for the same reasons as discussed above. Hastings is cited for disclosure of a printing substrate or medium with an adhesive property and does not remedy the deficiencies of Makino. Since Makino and Hastings fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 5 and 7, claims 5 and 7 are not obvious over Makino and Hastings. The rejections of claims 5 and 7 under 35 USC 103 should therefore be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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